

LARE Funding Policies

The LARE program may fund 75 percent of the cost of construction actions (up to \$100,000 for a specific project, or \$300,000 for all projects on a specific lake or stream). The program also will cost-share up to 80 percent on approved watershed land treatment practices. LARE may fully fund diagnostic or feasibility studies, design plans, and special projects, although a 10 percent local cost-share is typical.

The program does not fund construction of shoreline improvements for recreational purposes, repairing or raising the height of dams, construction of new lakes, enhancement of private lakes, or water and sewer services to lake residents. LARE can provide funds for control of aquatic weeds or algae and for qualified lake dredging projects.

For more information about the Lake and River Enhancement program; criteria for LARE project eligibility, priority or funding levels; project application; and approval procedure, contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), or the IDNR Division of Soil Conservation at 317/233-3870, or access the Division's Web site at www.in.gov/dnr/soilcons.

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*Protecting Indiana's Lakes,
Streams, and Reservoirs*

DNR

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What is the Lake and River Enhancement Program?

Rainfall and wind can erode over 100 million tons of soil annually from Indiana's landscape. Much of that soil enters lakes, streams, and reservoirs as sediment. Nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus are associated with that eroded soil.

Sedimentation of lakes, streams, and reservoirs reduces storage capacity (which affects public water supplies), diminishes flood water retention capability, impacts recreational uses, and harms aquatic life. Undesirable levels of nutrients can result in excessive aquatic plant and algae growth, hasten eutrophication (lake aging), and have other undesirable effects.

Sedimentation and associated nutrient problems are not only destructive to lakes, streams, and reservoirs, they are also costly. They can depreciate property values and their remediation is very expensive. Costs of sediment removal, drinking water treatment, and property repair are often so great as to make them unfeasible. It's much cheaper to prevent the problems than to correct them.

The Lake and River Enhancement program (LARE) focuses on problem prevention. Its purpose is to ensure the continued viability of Indiana's publicly accessible lakes, streams, and reservoirs. Program goals include (a) controlling inflows of eroded soil and associated nutrients to lakes, streams, and reservoirs and (b) where appropriate, forestalling or reversing degradation from these inflows through remedial actions.

To accomplish these goals, DNR's Division of Soil Conservation provides technical and financial assistance to qualified projects. These include: (a) studies, management plans, sediment removal, and design and construction activities involving specific lakes or streams; (b) land treatment practices or management plans for designated watersheds and (c) management plans and control of exotic plants and animals in targeted lakes.

Funding for the LARE program is provided by an annual fee charged to boat owners. Since its inception in 1988, on average the program has provided over \$1,000,000 annually in grants and cost-share assistance to projects that have affected nearly half of Indiana's counties. A change in state law in 2003 roughly doubled the amount of available funding each year.

Types of LARE Projects

Funding requests for LARE projects are submitted by local entities, such as lake associations or governmental units. Grant recipients may use LARE monies for one or more of the following purposes:

- preliminary lake or stream studies
- lake or stream diagnostic studies
- lake or stream strategic management plans
- engineering feasibility studies
- engineering design studies
- construction projects (e.g., wetlands, shoreline or streambank stabilization)
- construction project performance appraisals
- watershed land treatment projects
- watershed land treatment project summaries
- water quality monitoring
- sediment removal plans
- lake sediment removal (dredging)
- aquatic species management plans
- aquatic species control in lakes
- under certain conditions, pilot investigations, innovative demonstration projects, federal grant matching, or unique sediment or nutrient inflow problems